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# Sacramento schools trustees consider budget cuts tonight

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The Sacramento City Unified School District board is expected to vote tonight on drastic cuts to balance the district's budget.

The board will consider the cuts on a day when teachers and students statewide are rallying against layoffs, shrinking budgets and fee increases.

The urban district must close a \$30.6 million deficit in the 2010-11 budget.

Superintendent Jonathan P. Raymond will ask the board to approve a plan that would raise kindergarten through third grade class sizes, and lay off about 340 teachers, 60 counselors, social workers and psychologists, 30 school administrators and five clerical workers.

The district is in discussion with employee unions. Those talks could help save jobs and keep class sizes smaller, a district press release states.

In the proposed budget, Raymond said, the administration will save nearly \$6 million by eliminating 87 central office jobs. Another \$15 million would come from spending cutbacks from programs such as assistance to struggling students and adult education.

Raymond proposes to save \$950,000 by making buildings more energy efficient, \$250,000 by cutting central office budgets, \$170,000 by reducing the number of high schools offering summer school and \$85,000 in special education reductions.

School districts are required to notify teachers by March 15 of expected layoffs.

The school board meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at district headquarters, 5735 47th Ave.

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Call The Bee's Bill Lindelof, (916) 321-1079.

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**Suekaye** wrote on 03/04/2010 11:38:22 AM:

I have a first grader right now, and I am furious at all the cuts being made at our schools. I just think that its sad when the people who are suppose to run California fail at it, and then they go to schools to try and get the money they didn't put to good use the first time. I just wish that our children didn't have to pay for the mistakes of the people in charge. I just got something from my daughter's school today saying that P.E, music and art might get cut, how sad is that?

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**NeoCon\_Terror** wrote on 03/04/2010 11:37:12 AM:

<http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2FArticles%2FArticle.asp%3Ftitle%3DHc>  
or : <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/welcome.asp> click on 'How California Compares'  
Mississippi spends 69% of their state budget on education. North Carolina spends 53%

California ranks 29th in expenditures per pupil.  
California ranks from 47th to last in staff per student.  
California ranks 49th in class size.

While rumor has it that we have the highest paid teachers in the nation, a 2000-2001 cost\_of\_living comparison between states put California's average teacher salary at 16th.

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**NeoCon\_Terror** wrote on 03/04/2010 11:34:21 AM:

xxx

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**low\_ball\_88** wrote on 03/04/2010 11:13:53 AM:

Replying to OncePublicEmployee (03/04/2010 10:32:38 AM):  
"As a former county and federal public employee, I can attest to the bloat and waste within government.

This article clearly shows the trouble with inefficient government.

""lay off about 340 teachers, 60 counselors, social workers and psychologists, 30 school administrators and five clerical workers.""

TEACHERS are those who train the children. Yet government lays off 340 TEACHERS while retaining the totally overvalued and overhyped "counselors, social workers, and...":

WRONG! Not all kids are straight A students, not all kids come from the same social economic background, not all kids are mentally stable. Get the point?! We need a balance.

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**Kevinbr** wrote on 03/04/2010 11:09:19 AM:

They could easily cut 100 administrators and save all of the teaching positions. Most of the people in administration in the Sacramento City Unified School District are not needed. In fact, if one were to compare the student populations of the 80's and 90's and the size of the administration of that era - you would see that at the very least 100 administrative positions (including the most senior positions) could be eliminated. That is where the real bloat is. The teacher's union shouldn't stand for it - cut the real fat. They don't need all of the Associate Superintendent's and administrators. They don't do any work. Also, take a look at the vacation pay outs over the years - just like the state the district has paid out millions. Also, at one time the district was paying three law firms for legal opinions - why??? What's up with all of the administrative bloat in the personnel department? Structures have been created to justify salaries that people don't deserve. If the unions had any guts they'd target the real fat - the fat in the palace they call the Serna Center. If the Sac Bee had any courage they would publish the salaries of the 200 highest paid administrators in the district - that would show people the tremendous fat and waste that exists in that district. It's a real shame because the children and the community are suffering because of the greed.

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**chemgrrl** wrote on 03/04/2010 11:02:37 AM:

SPELLCHECK, BEE!!!

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**SGRANDAM95** wrote on 03/04/2010 10:51:44 AM:

Replying to Ilwart (03/04/2010 10:33:50 AM):  
"It's really hard to understand how we can GIVE SO MUCH \$\$\$ to other COUNTRIES but our own! OUR COUNTRY & STATE are the ones that are SUFFERING! NOW are CHILDREN will be the ones who SUFFER! Maybe we should start helping the people here instead of everyone else...":

AMEN to that!

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